

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 01579 071827Z

21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

XMB-02 /101 W

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R 071752Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SESTATE WASHDC 1228

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: GATT RO TRD EC

SUBJ: GATT AND THE ROMANIAN TARIFF

REFS: A) BUCHAREST 940; B) STATE 50483; C) GENEVA 1424

1. STATEMENT BY NICOLAE REPORTED PARA 3 REFTTEL (A) THAT US HAD SUGGESTED DELAYING ACTION FOR PERIOD OF TWO YEARS IS NOT CORRECT. A SUGGESTION ALONG THESE LINES WAS VAGUELY THROWN OUT BY EC AT TRIPARTITE MEETING, BUT WE DID NOT COMMENT ON IT.

2. THIS MISSION SHARES CONCERN OF EMBASSY BUCHAREST WITH NEED TO EXPLAIN TO ROMANIANS ANY DIFFERENCES WE SEE BETWEEN THE HUNGARIAN TRADE EFFECTS AND ROMANIAN TARIFFS. THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED HERE AS WELL AS IN BUCHAREST, AND WE BELIEVE FURTHER GUIDANCE WOULD BE DESIRABLE. SHOULD BE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, ROMANIANS INCORRECT IN IMPLYING US HAS FORMALLY ACCEPTED  
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 01579 071827Z

HUNGARIAN TARIFF.

3. WE DO NOT SEE WHAT PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY FURTHER EXPERTS' MEETINGS AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 6 REFTTEL (A) EXCEPT POSSIBLY FOR ATMOSPHERICS. IT HAS BEEN QUITE CLEAR HERE IN GNEVA THAT THE MEETINGS HAVE REACHED AN IMPASSE, AND THIS IS THE REASON THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF THE WORKING PARTY. THE BASIC PROBLEM IS THAT TARIFFS IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES DO NOT PLAY TH SAME ROLE THAT THEY DO I MARKET ECONOMIES AND NO AMOUNT OF EXPERTS' DISCUSSIONS CAN CHANGE THIS.

4. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS ACCURATE FOR THE ROMANIANS TO ALLEGE THAT WE HAV TAKEN A MORE NEGATIVE POSITON THAN THE EC. WHILE TH ROMANIANS WER UNDOUBTEDLY DISAPPOINTED THAT OUR POSITION IN SUBSTANCE IS THE SAM AS EC DELEGATION, NEVERTHELESS IT WAS THE EC THAT TOOK THE LEAD AND THAT, AS USUAL, USED MUCH BLUNTER TERMS THAN WE DID.

5. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE US POSITION HAS BEEN INSTRUEMTNAL IN GETTING THE EC TO CONCDE THAT THE ROMANIAN TARIFF DOES PLAY SOME ROLE, WHICH TYE DON'T REALLY BELIEVE. SINCE REFTELS (A) AND (B) CROSSED, WE ARE HOLDING UP INFORMING THE ROMANIAN MISSIONOF OUR DECISIONTO DECLINE THEIR INVITATION, UNTIL EARLY NEXT WEEK, UNLESS THE ROMANINS GET IN TOUCH WITH US BEFORE THEN,.

6. RE TERMS OF REFERNCE OF WP, THEY READ AS FOLLOWS: QTE TO EXAMINE, INTHE LIGHT OF THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT, THE CUSTOMS TARIFF AND THE REGULATIONS ON THE CUSTOMS TARIFF INTRODUCED BY ROMANIA, AND TO REPORT TO THE COUNCIL. NO OTHER COUNTRY HAS ALLGED THAT ROMANIAN TARIFFS DO NOT CONFORM WITH GATT NORMS. DISPUTE HAS ARISEN SOLELY BECAUSE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 01579 071827Z

ROMANIS'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE RECOGNITION BY OTHERS THAT THIR TARIFFS PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN INFLUENCING TRADE PATTERNS. IT SEEMS INCONGRUOUS FOR THEM NOW TO ARGUE THAT THIS QUESTION WHICH THH RAISED IS OUTTSIDE OF WP TERMS OF REFERENCE. DALE

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## Message Attributes

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